OPERATION
"FAMILY PLANNING"

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Perhaps it is not generally known that family planning drive in India was first started in our Army in 1949. Since then it has been taken up by the Government of India and has been gaining momentum as years rolled by.

The general impression is that family planning is necessary only from the point of view of food, because it is felt that as the population increases so will the problem of supply of food increase too and as there is no corresponding increase in the production of food, we must keep down the number of mouths to feed. To me this is not the only problem that is being created by this enormous growth of population in our country and in the world. There are other problems too.

Our Schools, and Colleges today have to turn away thousands of young Students boys and girls, because there is no room for them. There are hundreds of young people with academic and technical qualifications who cannot find jobs to suit their vocation. Hospitals have to cope with the increasing number of patients. There is an acute shortage of Doctors and Nurses and so also of equipment and medicine, So, full and complete medical service to our masses is not available. Trains and Buses and indeed planes too these days are always crammed with passengers. We have not enough hotels in our country not the luxury type, but simple ones - to meet the demands of the general public. Law Courts are getting more and more crowded with increasing legal cases. Full social service to the increasing number of aged and physically handicapped is not adequate. These are all matters which are intimately connected with the population of a country. If this terrifying population explosion is not controlled, we have to have many, many more Schools and Colleges therefore more and more teachers and professors. We will have to step up our medical set up in the country with more hospitals, more doctors, more nurses and more equipment and so on. We will require more social welfare workers organisations to cater for the demands of the rapidly increasing population. More trains more buses, and more aircraft, more post offices to meet the demands of the growing population will have to be provided. We will have to have many many more hotels of the simple type to house the large travelling public. The Housing problem still remains a major one. All these are intimately affected by the growing population of our country. When can we have all these? Have we the money and the resources needed? So let us not please think in terms of food only when we say we must control the size of the population in India. An intensive and vigorous drive for 'Family Planning' is absolutely necessary. It is a MUST.

There have been a spate of conferences, seminars and frequent visits to foreign countries by individuals to find out the right answer to the subject of family-planning. There have been many suggestions made and plans prepared to enforce the family planning policy in a big way. 'Rhythm Method' an import from America, was hoped to be real the real solver of this problem. This, however, did not catch on as it was NOT a suitable one for our illiterate masses. It died almost soon after its "BIRTH". Then came the contraceptive - Oral and Inserted. There was a certain amount of attention paid to Vasectomy but not in a vigorous measure. Then came the famous 'Loop'. The authorities feel it is at least a 'gift from the Gods' to solve

our population head-ache.

Contraceptives - Oral or Inserted - Rhythm and Loop are all very well but can we possibly expect the millions of illiterates who are the real ones who suffer from this 'National Malais' of uncontrolled growth of population, to adopt and apply any of these methods with any real results. I say ~~the~~ 'NO' The Loop. ~~Medical~~ Medical authorities say the 'Loop' should be inserted only by qualified Lady doctors. So we will want some tens of thousands of lady doctors to do this. Have we got them now and will we ever have them? Further the "Gadget" inserted under medical supervision has got to be replaced some time. It cannot be kept there permanently without causing internal physical harm by constant irritation leading to more serious ailments. This has got to be done under medical supervision too. Will we ever have enough doctors throughout the country to make sure that this is done hygienically and safely for the health of the person concerned.

I think, to make this Family Planning drive really effective and it has got to be made effective, taking into consideration money, labour and time now being spent on various other means to enforce Family Planning I would strongly recommend "Vasectomy" of only married people should be the only method to be adopted to enforce Family Planning in the best interests of our Country's future. It is necessary intensive efforts to 'educate' the masses in this subject should be started immediately. Let us call it "Operation Family Planning' with the sole aim of having a virile population in our country virile physically, mentally and morally. The best agency for this 'Education' is through the screen. Good films with convincing themes must be prepared with good educative songs on this subject and these must be shown frequently in EVERY Cinema House throughout the country. There should be mobile Teams of Social welfare workers and doctors visiting every nook and corner of the country taking with them men and women of the working classes from villages who have had 'Vasectomy' operation done on them to go amongst the masses, factory, coffee and Tea plantation labourers to show these films, give them talks on the need of Family Planning and do the 'Vasectomy' on the spot with all arrangements made for the after medical care of the 'Operation' Small pamphlets in all Indian languages must be written on the need for "Family Planning ". In all Schools and Colleges Students should be frequently given elementary talks on the need to control the population of the country giving reasons for this control.

In Coffee and Tea plantations where the planters are obliged by order, to pay 'maternity allowance' on every occassion a labourer's wife is expecting a baby must be modified to make this payment only obligatory until the labourer has had two children and no allowance after two. Today because of this allowance many labourers looking upon it an an additional 'income' keep producing children with almost clock like precision - one every year; There should be an ordinance forbidding more than two children to any married couple in the country.

I know we are a secular State but this subject of National importance applies to every citizen of India regardless of the religion he/~~she~~ persues. The religious aspect of this matter must be subordinated by an ordinance to the practical economic necessity We cannot allow any community to disregard this National Problem merely because its religion forbids 'Family Planning' at the expense of others who are obliged by order to practise Family

planning - because their religion does not forbid it.

Let us have a nation wide slogan - Everyone in India as long as he is a "Full Fledged" citizen of India regardless of his religion shall practise "Family Planning" in accordance with the Poli[illegible] laid down by the Government to help have a Nation of virile people - virile physically, mentally and morally, to make India a prosperous strong and so a peaceful country.

Action with speed is the Call of the Day.

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